

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Currently Amended) An adaptor useful for transferring multiple fluid samples from a first set of receptacles ~~spaced apart by a first spacing~~ to a second set of receptacles ~~spaced apart by a second spacing~~, comprising:
 - a body, said body defining
 - a first set of apertures at one end of said body, ~~said first set of apertures spaced apart by the first spacing~~,
 - a second set of apertures at a second end of said body remote from said first end, ~~said second set of apertures spaced apart by the second spacing~~, and
 - channels within said body connecting said first set of apertures with said second set of apertures, wherein at least one of said channels is curved.
2. (Original) An adaptor as defined in claim 1, wherein said body comprises plastic.
3. (Currently Amended) An adaptor as defined in claim 1, further comprising:
 - a ~~an~~ lip coupled to said second end of said body, wherein said second set of apertures is disposed in said lip.
4. (Original) An adaptor as defined in claim 3, further comprising:
 - one or more receiving lips coupled to said second end of said body.
5. (Currently Amended) An adaptor as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~the second spacing is different from the first spacing~~ at least one of said channels located toward an outer side of said body is curved.

6. (Currently Amended) An adaptor as defined in claim 5 [[1]], wherein ~~the second set of apertures are evenly spaced~~ at least one of said channels located toward a middle portion of said body bends.
7. (Currently Amended) An adaptor as defined in claim [[1]] 5, wherein ~~the second set of apertures are unevenly spaced~~ said at least one of said channels located toward an outer side of said body is configured so that it bends inwardly toward a middle portion of said body.
8. (Currently Amended) An adaptor as defined in claim 1, further comprising:
 - a means, coupled to said body, for stabilizing and aligning said body over a vertical, substantially vertical, horizontal, or substantially horizontal gel.
9. (Original) An adaptor as defined in claim 8, wherein said means for stabilizing and aligning comprises:
 - a base having a body with a back, two sides, and two horizontal support members.
10. (Currently Amended) An adaptor as defined in claim 9, wherein said base further comprises:
 - an angled ledge, extending downwards and outwards from said back, comprising one or more grooves for slidably ~~receiving therein said receiving lips~~ guiding said body.
11. (Currently Amended) An assembly useful for transferring multiple fluid samples from a first set of receptacles ~~spaced apart by a first spacing~~ to a second set of receptacles ~~spaced apart by a second spacing~~, comprising:
 - a body, said body defining
 - a first set of apertures at one end of said body, ~~said first set of apertures spaced apart by the first spacing,~~

a second set of apertures at a second end of said body remote from said first end, ~~said second set of apertures spaced apart by the second spacing,~~ and channels within said body connecting said first set of apertures with said second set of apertures, wherein at least one of said channels is curved; and gel-loading pipette tips ~~inserted into~~ threaded through said channels, wherein said gel-loading pipette tips are bendable.

12. (Currently Amended) An assembly as defined in claim 11, wherein ~~said~~ the second set of receptacles are wells of an electrophoresis gel.
13. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 12, further comprising:
 - an automated fluid transferring device for transferring fluid from said first set of receptacles to said wells of an electrophoresis gel.
14. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 11, further comprising:
 - a multi-channel pipettor attached to said gel-loading pipette tips.
15. (Currently Amended) An assembly useful for transferring multiple fluid samples from a first set of receptacles ~~spaced apart by a first spacing~~ to a second set of receptacles ~~spaced apart by a second spacing~~, comprising:
 - a body, said body defining
 - a first set of apertures at one end of said body, ~~said first set of apertures spaced apart by the first spacing,~~
 - a second set of apertures at a second end of said body remote from said first end, ~~said second set of apertures spaced apart by the second spacing,~~ and
 - channels within said body connecting said first set of apertures with said second set of apertures, wherein at least one of said channels is curved;
 - a base coupled to said body for stabilizing and aligning said body over a vertical, substantially vertical, horizontal, or substantially horizontal gel; and
 - gel-loading pipette tips ~~inserted into~~ threaded through said channels, wherein said gel-loading pipette tips are bendable.

16. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 15, further comprising:
a multi-channel pipettor attached to said gel-loading pipette tips.

17-28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) An adaptor as defined in claim 6, wherein said at least one of said channels
located toward a middle portion of said body is configured so that it bends outwardly
toward an outer side of said body.